* Mismatches in the energy drawals by the open access customers to be billed as per the existing frequency linked unscheduled interchange charges under Availability Based Tariff (ABT)

* CERC recommends adoption of ABT at the State level.

Mega power policy

876. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce the new tariff regulations and trading policy for the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when, these are expected to be made operational;

(d) whether Government also propose to carry out a comprehensive change in the mega power policy; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAVANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Section 3(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides *inter alia* that the Central Government shall prepare the National Electricity Policy and tariff policy in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Views of the State Governments have been solicited on formulation of these policies. A preliminary discussion paper on tariff policy was prepared with the assistance of CEA and Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL) and circulated to all the State Governments for their comments and suggestions.

Since the Policies are of vital importance for the smooth development of the power sector, the Government of India has constituted a Task Force on Power Sector Investments and Reforms under the chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh, Member (Energy), Planning Commission, with the terms of reference *inter alia,* to recommend an Electricity Tariff Policy and also to evolve and recommend a National Electricity Policy.

The State Governments have been requested to give their views on the terms of reference of the Task Force. The Task Force also held a meeting with Energy/Power Secretaries of States on 4th December, 2003. Meetings have also been held with other stakeholders. The Task Force is deliberating on the issues involved.